

History of Geography Specialty Group

Volume 5, Issue 1

Spring 2002

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As of February 2001

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Greetings from the Chair

I assume that you are in a situation similar to my own—not having received the call from a Hollywood agent begging you to fly out for the ‘big opportunity to make a name’ for yourself in show business. So, together we can look forward to taking advantage of the next best thing—a week in Los Angeles at the Annual Meeting of the AAG.

Draft entries already submitted to the ***GEOGRAPHY IN AMERICA TIMELINE*** will be displayed in the corridor outside the Exhibit Hall (current plan for location to best display this). I will be spending a great deal of time there collecting suggestions—do stop by. Please consider submitting several, and perhaps numerous, entries. Suggestions for the contents of entries are located on p.3 of this Newsletter.

Who knows the history of American geography, at least portions of it, better than members of this group? So draft some entries. Encourage others to draft entries as well. I would love to be able to (honestly) say to Stan Brunn and Don Jannell, chairs of the AAG’s Centennial Coordinating Committee, that members

of the History of Geography Specialty Group have led the profession in creation of the ***TIMELINE***.

There will be several sessions on the history of geography at the meetings—check out the notice on page 5 of this Newsletter. Are there sessions of obvious interest that I missed? If so, why not communicate them to all of us via the History of Geography listserve?

I look forward to talking with you at the **Specialty Group’s business meeting, 7-8 p.m., Friday evening in Los Cerritos room of the Westin Bonaventure Hotel**. I look forward to hearing your ideas about setting an agenda for Specialty Group activities—how can the Specialty Group further the exploration of the history of geography among members of the AAG? how can it support your interests? how can it encourage the interests of others in the history of geography? Do you have ideas about Philadelphia in 2004?

If you are a geographer who uses previously published material to guide your field exploration,

you might wish to follow up on the symposium—*Man, Time, and Space in Southern California*—that was coordinated by William L. Thomas and held in conjunction with the annual meeting of the Association of American Geographers in Santa Monica in 1958 (William L. Thomas, Jr. ed. *Man, Time, and Space in Southern California: a Symposium. Annals of the Association of American Geographers* 49 [supplement, part 2, September 1959]: 1-120).

Have a safe journey to Los Angeles. See you there,

Donald Dahmann

Plan to attend
the HoG SG
business
meeting in
Los Angeles
7:00-8:00 p.m.
Friday, March 22
Los Cerritos Rm.
Westin
Bonaventure

Geographers on Film: 2002 Update

INTRODUCTION:

August 1970 marked the origin of Geographers on Film (GOF), a visual record and archival resource. Participants speak for the record (varying from ten to eighty-nine minutes) that samples of the geographical experience are maintained on video; the ultimate concomitant goal is full transcription. The project resulted from teaching thought and methodology courses; students therein would pore over the writings of cognoscenti to acquire an appreciation for the genesis and development of geography as a field of learning. After considering the advantage of having Aristotle on film it was decided to secure in a permanent medium something of the more fertile minds of modern geography. In the beginning concentration was on elder statespersons, thus coverage spans much of 20th Century geography.

MORPHOLOGY:

536 productions include 292 film and videotape GOF interviews (154 hours) of the thought and reflection of 264 geographers, plus 244 GOF Additional Holdings (135 hours), which feature distinctive themes (varying from three to 196 minutes) and embody 122 supplemental geographers expanding the number to 379 geographers incorporated within GOF. Fifty-six of the GOF films/videos are multiple interviews of twenty-eight selected individuals (e.g. Rich-

ard Hartshorne, 1972, 1978, 1979, 1986A, 1986B). Supplementary productions include two 1/4" audio tapes (George B. Cressey and Joseph E. Spencer) and a silent film transformed to VHS. The complete visual portions of GOF (285.5 hours) have been converted to the readily accessible VHS format and are available for rental.

THEMATIC

PRESENTATIONS:

To complement GOF, fifteen (15) thematic video presentations have evolved. The process entails electronically splicing segments of GOF features into productions following specific themes: "Roots and Practice of Northwestern Geography", GOF Interview Years 1971-1972 (1972): 29 min, "William Morris Davis, Robert P. Beckinsale" (1975) Edited Banquet Address, Co-author, *The Life and Work of William Morris Davis, The History of the Study of Landforms, vol. 2, 1973*. New Haven CT, Oct 10 (1975): 32 min, "Interviews of Berkeley Students" 1932-1950 (1979): 123 min, "Unity in Diversity, Marvin W. Mikesell" 1979, Archival Footage of Opening Session: The AAG at 75: History and Prospect, Philadelphia, April 22 (1979): 22 min, "Early 20th Century Harvard Geographers" (1980): 21 min, "Wallace W. Atwood: Clark Monadnock of the 1920s" (1980): 10 min, "Harvard in the 40s: Recol-

lections of the Demise" (1988): 38 min, "Mr. Sauer: Mentor and Disciples" (1988): 60 min, "The QR: Reflections about the Quantitative Revolution in American Geography" (1988): 59 min, "Women Geographers on Film I - A Retrospective: Survival in the Male-dominated Academic" (1990): 29 min, "Women Geographers on Film II" (1991): 58 min, "The Silver Sampler: 25 years of Geographers on Film" (1994): 36 min, "Interviews of Berkeley Faculty" 1950-1996 (1996): 122 min, "Diffusion of Geographic Education, K-PhD I" (1996): 38 min, and "Diffusion of Geographic Education, K-PhD II" (1998): 86 min.

Please direct inquiries to M. W. Dow, 44 Towne Road, Bristol, NH 03222. Telephone (603) 744-8846; E-MAIL: MWD@MAIL.PLYMOUTH.EDU; For complete listings see WEBSITE: <http://oz.plymouth.edu/~mwd>

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The HoG newsletter is continually seeking contributions for future issues.

Please send newsletter items to Jodi at the address above, and let her know if you'd like to receive this newsletter in a different format (email or snail-mail).

HoG listserv:

HISTORY-OF-GEOG@LSV.UKY.EDU

Michael Dorn
(Philadelphia, PA) has put together a listserv for the Specialty Group. If you have not been receiving messages and would like to be added to the list, contact Mike at mldorn00@pop.uky.edu

HoG website:

<http://www.geog.psu.edu/hog>

News and notes

Wolfgang Natter (University of Kentucky) is spending the 01/02 year in Germany as Leibniz Professor at the University of Leipzig and as a Fellow of the Max Planck Institute for the History of Science. He is pursuing research in the disciplinary history of "turn of the century (1900) geography" in Germany, and with specific reference to contemporaneous developments in the U.S. He has read invited papers at various German universities on aspects of Ratzel's work, as well as on Haushofer and the *Zeitschrift fuer Geopolitik*.

Paul B. Frederick (University of Maine, Farmington) has a new book out:
Canning Gold: Northern New England's Sweet Corn Industry- A Historical Geography. Lanham, MD: University Press of America. (2002). \$60
ISBN 0-7618-2199-6
www.univpress.com

Geography in America Timeline

SUGGESTIONS FOR TOPICS WORTH CONSIDERING FOR INCLUSION IN A TIMELINE ENTRY for an ACADEMIC DEPARTMENT
(no department has included all of these events; most do not come close; please use FULL bibliographic citations)

- Date, professor, and the title of first geography course offered
- Date and name of chair when department is established
- Date degree programs are established or first degree awarded—B.A./B.S., M.A./M.S., Ph.D. (?)
- Dates when program underwent dramatic structural change—name change, elimination and rebirth, new administrative location with the university
- Other significant event in life of the department (?)
- Date department's entry should appear on timeline—when first course is offered? when department is established? other?
- Citation to book or pamphlet documenting some/all items in department's entry, such as a departmental history, journal article, etc.
- URL for department website

SUGGESTIONS FOR TOPICS WORTH CONSIDERING FOR INCLUSION IN A TIMELINE ENTRY for a RESEARCH TRADITION
(Tidbits articles in AAG NEWSLETTER provide examples)

- First article devoted to topic is published
- First book used in courses addressing topic is published
- First book devoted to topic is published
- First academic program is created, or doctoral dissertation granted, in topic
- Major research effort is undertaken, including researchers involved
- Major discovery, invention, or research finding is announced
- Research turns in a new direction as the result of some event Journal devoted to topic begins publication
- Important impact of research is experienced by society
- URL for any linkages to material on the internet

Forthcoming meeting/Call for papers

On behalf of the **IX Meeting of Latin American Geographers** (IX EGAL, in Spanish), to be held April 22-24, 2003, at Mérida, Yucatán, México, we extend a broad invitation to present papers at the **Symposium on the History of Geography**.

The meeting's official web page, with all essential information about key dates, costs, registration forms, and contacts, can be found on the web site of the National Autonomous University of Mexico's Institute of Geography at the following URL:

<http://www.igeograf.unam.mx/instituto/frame.html>

Abstracts (250 words), in English, French, Spanish, or Portuguese should be sent to the

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Call for Nominations and Election of Officers

The terms of office of the Specialty Group's current chair (Donald Dahmann), treasurer-secretary (Miriam Hill), and one of three directors (Kent Mathewson) expire at the group's Business Meeting in Los Angeles. All three are eligible to stand for re-election. The term of office of the Chair is two years and the incumbent may succeed themselves once. The term of office of the Secretary-Treasurer is two years, with no term limits. The term of office of a Director is three years, with no term limits.

The specialty group's bylaws include the following statement concerning the conduct of elec-

tions—the “chair shall appoint the nominating committee at the business meeting [and that] the committee will solicit nominations for elected officers and elections will be conducted by mail.” So, come the Business Meeting, Friday evening (7-8:00, Los Cerritos room of the Westin Bonaventure Hotel) in Los Angeles, one item of business ought to be creation of a nominating committee so that an election “conducted by mail” can occur as shortly thereafter as possible.

Attendance at recent Business Meetings has been quite small and mail balloting has not worked particularly well, and as I have received indications from several

regular participants that they will not be attending the Los Angeles meetings (perhaps suggesting continued small attendance at the Business Meeting). **Could we let this Newsletter item stand as a Call for Nominations, and hold Elections at the Business Meeting?**

Let me know if you object to this plan of action. Otherwise, bring nominations for the three positions—Chair, Secretary-Treasurer, and Director—to the Business Meeting in Los Angeles and be prepared to vote on a slate of officers.

Donald Dahman
ddahmann@yahoo.com

IX Meeting of Latin American Geographers, cont'd

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following address, noting participation in the History of Geography Symposium:

E-mail: 9EGAL@igiris.igeograf.unam.mx


The abstract deadline is June 28, 2002.

This is an opportunity for dialogue and networking among geographers from various countries of the Americas (from Canada to Argentina) and Europe. It is important for building a better understanding of the history of geographical thought, especially its problems, perspectives, methods, results, and research prospects, with a comparative perspective between countries. In addition, the symposium should facilitate the diffusion of new materials and the presentation of new books on the history of geography.

This symposium is coordinated with Vincent Berdoulay [vincent.berdoulay@univ-pau.fr], president of the Commission on the History of Geographical Thought of the I.G.U., and by Héctor Mendoza Vargas, member of this Commission. The Commission's official website can be found at URL: <http://www.univ-pau.fr/RECHERCHE/UGIHG>

For more information on this Symposium, please contact:

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*History of Geography
Specialty Group*

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History of Geography

AAG Sessions of Interest

Wednesday

The Lowenthal Papers—3 sessions and reception: 1-2:40, 3-4:40, 5-6:40, 8:15-10:00 — San Gabriel B

Light Impressions: Travel, Writing, and Photography: 1-2:40 — Santa Anita

Thursday

Historical Cartography: 8-9:40 — MARRIOTT 305

Popular Cartography and Society: 18th and 19th Century Perspectives: 1-2:40 — San Fernando

The Geography of the United States in the Year 2000 [*Transactions IBG* 51 (1970): 21-54]: 1-2:40 — Emerald Bay

Geographic Thought: Representing Space and Place: 3-4:40 — Los Feliz

Panel Session: Celebrating the AAG's Centennial—a Discussion Session on the *Geography in America Timeline* Project of the Centennial Coordinating Committee: 5-6:40 — Santa Barbara A

Friday

Empires of Science—5 sessions: 8-9:40, 10-11:40, 1-2:40, 3-4:40, 5-6:40 — MARRIOTT Grande Ballroom-Salon 3

Urban Geography in the 1970s: 10-11:40 — San Francisco

History of Geography Specialty Group Business Meeting: 7-8:00 — Los Cerritos